

REMARKS

In the Office Action identified above, the Examiner

- a) allowed claims 23 and 24;
- b) indicated allowable subject matter in claims 10, 11-13, 15, 17-19, and 20;
and
- c) rejected claims 8, 9, 14, 16, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (US 6,737,320 B2, "Chen").¹

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10, 11-13, 15, 17-19, 20, 23, and 24.

In the present Amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 8, and have amended claims 9-11, 14, 16, 17, and 20-22. As a result, claims 1 and 9-24 are pending in the above-identified application, of which claims 9-24 are presented for examination.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 8, 9, 14, 16, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen. However, in order to advance prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claim 8, and have amended claims 9, 14, 16, 21, and 22 to depend from allowable claim 23. In light of the cancellation of claim 8 and the changes to claims 9, 14, 16, 21, and 22, Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been rendered moot. Accordingly, claims 9, 14, 16, 21, and 22 are deemed allowable.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement of characterization in the Office Action.

In addition, claims 10, 11, 17, and 20 have also been amended to depend from allowable claim 23. Therefore, each of pending claims 9-24 is allowable.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 25, 2006

By: 
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